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PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS

Wednesday, January 7, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENT: And now for another 10-minute reading from the Primer for Town Farmers. Station _____ presents Neighbor Thompson, Uncle Sam's town-farmer representative at this station. Mr. Thompson brings us at this time some timely pointers on poultry raising; in other words, on getting hens to lay eggs in the winter time. All right, Neighbor. ...

Well, for the last year or so Mrs. T. has been taking care of our back-yard poultry flock; and not long ago she was worried because her hens weren't laying as she thought they ought to. As a matter of fact, some of them didn't seem to be laying at all.

Well, she finally took her troubles to our neighbor, Bob Sawyer, who used to raise poultry on a big scale and Bob made a suggestion. He suggested that she start giving a light feed of moist mash every day, in addition to the dry mash, which is available all the time.

This seems to have been a good idea for since that time Mrs. T. reports that egg production has been steadily on the up-grade.

Incidentally, she's found that this moist mash is a good medium for getting rid of the table scraps which, besides being a good addition to the poultry ration, is very cheap feed.

Well, another thing that's wrong with Mrs. T's flock this winter, I think, is that she has too many hens and not enough pullets. Most fall and early winter eggs come from pullets, anyway and so to make the flock profitable, it seems that at least half of the birds should be pullets.

Now, I know it is true that many town poultry keepers---and of course other poultry raisers as well---don't get eggs in the winter months when egg prices are highest. I have had this experience, and some of my neighbors are having it now.

So I'm going to pass along today some suggestions from a poultry husband man of the United States Department of Agriculture, Mr. A. R. Lee.

Mr. Lee points out that various things affect winter egg production but that only two of them can be controlled now: namely, feeding and management.

Going a little farther back than the season of year, of course, there is the factor of good breeding.

Laying stock, which is especially selected for egg laying ability, is one of the first requirements of a profitable flock.

And now is the time, by the way, to take steps toward improving the flock, by arranging to buy hatching eggs, or day-old chicks, from stock which HAS BEEN bred for production.

And, I should add, PULLETS* I know quite a few town farmers, who haven't space for raising chicks, who renew their flocks each year by buying pullets during the summer. I understand the raising of pullets to meet this demand is getting to be a good-sized business.

Now, most everybody who raises poultry knows that hens need plenty of mash to produce winter eggs. And so I want to quote this statement of Mr. Lee's:

"I've noticed that most backyard poultry keepers do not provide enough hopper space for best results," he declares. "I believe many of them could well afford to DOUBLE their hopper space, or in other words, put in twice as many hoppers. A good rule is to allow ³running inches of hopper space for each hen in the flock."

In this connection, Mr. Lee emphasizes that suggestion made by Bob Sawyer who said that it is a good idea to give a light feed of moist mash daily during the winter months.

He also suggests that table scraps and kitchen waste be fed in a hopper or trough---and not thrown on the ground, where it may decay.

Now, about scratch feed. Approximately equal parts of mash and scratch feed seem to make the best ration for this time of year---a light feed of scratch in the morning and a heavy feed at night.

Here is a little note about water, also. Hens will not eat dry mash freely unless they have plenty of water to drink; and during freezing weather 'plenty of water' may mean freshening the supply at least twice a day.

Well, so much for feeding. If you want the details, you might write for that bulletin on "Poultry Keeping in Back Yards," which is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1508; or for the bulletin called "Feeding Chickens," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1541.

Now, of the other things influencing egg production, keeping the laying house clean and comfortable is undoubtedly high on the list. Comfort, in the winter time, means largely good ventilation. Mr. Lee says that some ventilation is desirable even on the coldest nights. The best plan, he believes, is to try to keep the house comfortable at all times by regulating the openings according to the temperature.

Nowadays many of you doubtless keep your flocks confined in the house throughout the winter and, of course, comfort ~~and~~ sanitation mean everything.

Incidentally, Mr. Lee makes this statement. He says that "Hens confined for the winter in well-kept houses seem to do as well, if not better, than hens which are allowed to run in small outside barren yards, which are apt to become infested with disease."

But confinement rearing succeeds ONLY where the houses are kept strictly sanitary and where the hens are not crowded.

Sanitation, according to Mr. Lee, means among other things, cleaning the dropping boards at least twice a week, and replacing the litter whenever it gets damp or badly soiled.

To keep hens in confinement successfully, also means adding 1 per cent cod-liver oil to the mash.

Now, some back yard poultry keepers find that it pays them to use artificial lights to lengthen the hen's working day.

Another way to lengthen the working day, on a smaller scale of course, is to keep the windows clean---and this is a good idea whether or not you use artificial lights.

Now, if you're having such poultry troubles as roup, colds, and chicken pox, let me refer you to a new bulletin just published by the Department of Agriculture. It is called Diseases and Parasites of Poultry," and the number is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1652.

As you know, these bulletins are free of charge as long as the supply lasts. If you'll drop me a line, either at Station_____or in care of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, I'll see that copies are sent to you.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Ladies and gentlemen, you have been listening to Neighbor Thompson, who has just brought you tips on winter poultry raising from the Primer for Town Farmers. Let me run over the titles and numbers of those bulletins again. Here they are: "Poultry Keeping in Back Yards," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1508; "Feeding Chickens," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1541; and "Diseases and Parasites of Poultry," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1652. Write for your copies, either to Station____ or direct to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

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IN 3 P

PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENT: And now here is Neighbor Thompson, with his latest reading from the Primer for Town Farmers. You may think Mr. Thompson is rushing the season just a little bit; but anyway, he has been looking through the 1931 seed catalogs, and today he's going to tell us some of the things he has seen. All right, Neighbor...

Only the 14th of January, but already the first signs of spring--- I found two seed catalogs in my mail this morning.

You know, I believe I get up more of an appetite looking at the pictures in seed catalogs than I do in viewing most of the products of my own garden.

But anyway, there are several newcomers in the catalogs this year, as well as old friends.

Of course, by newcomers I mean comparatively new varieties---- those which have been tried and tested long enough to prove their merit.

Take for instance, the case of the Marglobe tomato. Now, I happen to know something about this, because Dr. Frederick J. Pritchard, of the United States Department of Agriculture, who developed the Marglobe, is a friend of W.R.B., my next-door neighbor.

Dr. Pritchard observed, along with everybody else, how tomato growers were annually paying thousands of dollars in tribute to tomato WILT----a disease that, as you know, lives over in the soil and causes tomato plants to wilt and die, about the time they should be putting on a good crop of fruit.

But Dr. Pritchard also observed that certain plants of certain varieties did not die of this wilt. And so, he proceeded to make many crosses and grow many thousands of plants; and finally he developed a tomato that was not only resistant to wilt, but an excellent market and cannery tomato as well. This is the Marglobe tomato, so named by Dr. Pritchard.

However, Dr. Pritchard didn't stop there. Marglobe, you know, isn't quite as early as some of the varieties which are less resistant to disease,

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and so Dr. Pritchard set about to create another variety which would not only have the vigor and disease-resistant qualities of the Marglobe, but which would mature early.

And, like the small boy, he "went and done it." The result is a new variety called "Break O' Day."

Now as a matter of fact, not very much seed of the Break O' Day tomato is being offered for sale this year; and so I think that I'll wait another year before ordering any. However, W. R. B., who is our garden adviser in this neighborhood, tried it last season; and he believes it is the finest early tomato yet developed. The only thing needed now, he says, is closer selection of seed stocks, and by next winter there will undoubtedly be plenty of this genuine **SELECTED** seed.

Well, here's another vegetable with which I, at least, am not very well acquainted. I refer to sprouting broccoli, which as you doubtless know, is somewhat like cauliflower, only it has several small green heads instead of one large white head. Sprouting Broccoli, of course, has been in the catalogs for several years, and is gaining in popularity, although it still isn't as widely grown as it might be. It can be grown almost anywhere, either as an early crop or a late crop in the South, or as a midseason crop in the North. According to the catalogs, it requires 130 to 150 days from seed-sowing to maturity; and it seems to do best when the weather is rather cool. In short it seems to prefer about the same climatic conditions as cabbage does.

In case you are not familiar with sprouting broccoli, I might add that it really is a green-headed cauliflower, and is cultivated just like cauliflower, collards or early cabbage. The heads and tender stems are cut off and boiled, and served like greens, or like asparagus.

Now, there seems to be nothing especially new in the line of lettuce. However, I might mention a couple of varieties that are recommended as being especially good for some localities. One of them is the Green-leaved, or **WHITE**, Big Boston. I guess you are all familiar with the common Big Boston. Well, the **WHITE** variety has heads of about the same size as the regular Big Boston, but the leaves are not tinged with red. There seems to be considerable difference in the abilities of the two varieties to withstand heat without tip-burning, and the White Big Boston is more resistant to tip-burning than the regular Big Boston.

If you're fond of lettuce, you might also try a row of romaine, or what is more commonly called **TRIANON COS** lettuce. The leaves of this lettuce are long and narrow and the heads grow rather compact and upright, usually 8 or 10 inches and sometimes more than a foot, in height. I'm told it is comparatively easy to grow, and I know that it does make a delicious salad lettuce, especially when the centers of the heads get to be fairly well bleached.

Well, there doesn't seem to be much new, either, in the way of muskmelons. Bender's Surprise for the northeast; and Hale's Best, Hearts of Gold and Fordhook for the South and West are still holding forth as the standards; along with Tip Top, which is popular in the middle west.

However, when it comes to watermelons, there IS something new under the sun. Stone Mountain, sometimes called Dixie Belle, is one of them. It is a round, dark green melon that I'm told has a very fine flavor. Then, here is a brand new melon, the seed of which is offered for the first time this year. It is called CREATION. Since it is making its initial appearance, it is in the same class with the Break O'Day tomato-----there is not much seed to be had. So probably most of us who grow watermelons, will have to wait until next year before indulging in the new variety.

In my own opinion, there is no better melon, for home use, than the old Kleckley Sweet, with Florida Favorite running a close second. They are both old varieties, but they are still pretty hard to beat, so far as I'm concerned.

Golden Bantam corn, of course, is an old friend by this time; and I think I'll stick to it until W.R.B., or somebody else, comes along and proves to me there is something better. However, Vanguard and Golden Age are two of the newer varieties which many folks seem to like.

With peas, it seems that all of the main varieties are old friends. It's really surprising how certain familiar varieties, like Thomas Laxton, Little Marvel and Gradus, stay with us. Apparently the growers of peas have reached just about as near perfection as it is possible to get.

Now, not everybody cares to bother with growing celery; but if you do, there are two fairly new varieties that would seem to be worth trying. One of them, Golden Plume, is an early celery and makes a wonderful growth. It doesn't keep any too well, however, and so it is best to use it ONLY as an early celery. The other variety is known as Easy Bleaching. It is a rather green, heavy-growing celery, but keeps well and has an excellent flavor.

Well, I might mention a number of other things in this year's catalogs. There is Washington asparagus, for example----a comparatively new variety, originated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for resistance to the rust disease. There are three strains of this asparagus, and the Mary Washington seems to be the most popular one. My friend W.R.B. recommends this variety very highly, but he advises planting ONLY extra strong one-year-old plants.

And now, let me wind-up with something real new in onions----that is, new so far as growing in this country is concerned. I refer to the Valencia, or Sweet Spanish, onion----the one that has been shipped into this country from Spain by the boatload. As you doubtless know, we have been growing them in this country now for several years; and last year several Western states sent many carloads of these large yellow, or straw-colored onions to the eastern markets.

The point is, it seems that anybody can grow them in his home garden. Where it is cold, of course, you have to sow seed in the hotbed or cold-frame and transplant the plants to the garden. W.R.B., for instance, sowed seed in his hotbed on February 6 last year, set the plants in the garden the first week in April, and by the first of August he had several bushels of very fine yellow onions.

Well, I hope that you get as much kick out of looking through the new seed catalogs as I do. For a winter evening before the fireplace, it is a great sport.

ANNOUNCEMENT: You have been listening to the Primer for Town Farmers, brought to you by Neighbor Thompson. Station _____ presents Mr. Thompson again next Wednesday at this same hour, through the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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In 3P
PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS

JAN 21 1931
Wednesday, January 21, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENT: Neighbor Thompson, town-farmer spokesman for the United States Department of Agriculture, is with us again at this time, with another reading from the Primer for Town Farmers. Mr. Thompson has promised to talk today about lengthening the growing season; which of course means getting early plants with hotbeds and coldframes. All right, Neighbor...

I live in what you might call a gardening neighborhood-----and it seems that it always has been a gardening neighborhood. When I first moved here, I was moved to wonder at the speed with which my neighbors produced fresh vegetables, and flowers in the spring.

There were no green houses hereabouts at the time----but I soon found that practically everyone did own either a hotbed or coldframe.

This was my first real introduction to the science of high-pressuring Nature. Now, of course, I could hardly be without a hotbed and still hold up my head in the company of Bob Sawyer, and Hal Webb and some of my other gardening neighbors. Some of them have gone still farther, and built small greenhouses and plant pits.

As far as I know, no two of them use systems and equipment that are exactly alike. Hal Webb, for instance, has built his hotbed on the south side of his garage; and the bed is heated by a coil of pipe connected with a small heater which keeps his garage warm in cold weather.

Mrs. Smith, my neighbor-across-the-street, has a glass-covered pit on the south side of her house, with the heat furnished from the same boiler which heats the dwelling.

Again, Bob Sawyer has a hotbed heated by manure. It is located on the south side of his garage; and each year he fills the pit with fermenting horse stable manure, and grows a supply of early plants for his garden.

You might be interested, by the way, in Bob's scheme.

In the first place, the pit of this bed is about 18 inches deep; the board sides are about a foot higher at the back than in front. All told, the bed is a little more than 12 feet long and it is covered with four standard 3-by-6-foot hotbed sash.

Along about this time of year, Bob gets about three-fourths of a ton to a ton of manure from the stable of our local lumber yard. Then he puts the manure in a broad, flat pile in front of the hotbed. After a couple of days, he forks it over, and then, in another two days, he gives it a second turning. Thus, in 5 or 6 days after the manure is delivered, it is ready to go into the hotbed pit.

Now as to the pit itself. First, Bob gives it a good cleaning, and he sprays the sidewalls with a solution of 1 ounce of corrosive sublimate (a deadly poison) in 8 gallons of water. This is enough to kill any disease germs which may be lurking in the woodwork or on the floor.

After this, he spreads the manure in the bottom of the pit, taking care to shake out each forkful so that there will be no lumps. He puts a part in, then tramples it, and then adds the rest, again trampling it firmly. If the manure chances to be a little dry, he adds enough water to make it pack solidly. Then, over his bed of manure, he puts about 5 inches of good sandy garden loam.

Well, to go ahead through the season, here is Bob's procedure. The sash are put on and the bed is left for 2 or 3 days to heat. It is possible, he tells me, that the heat may run too high at first to allow sowing of the seeds. So it sometimes is necessary to delay planting, until the temperature of the bed falls below 85 degrees Fahrenheit, Bob uses a thermometer at this time, burying the bulb of the thermometer in the soil.

With the temperature down below 85, it is safe to begin sowing such seeds as tomato, cabbage, lettuce, scarlet sage, pansies, sweet slyssym, and a number of other vegetables and flowers which you might want for early planting.

However, Bob cautions that the bed needs careful watching. It may get TOO warm, and on bright days it is a good idea to lift the sash a trifle to let in air.

On the other hand, it may get too cold---that is, on very cold nights. And so, it needs protection. Bob covers his beds with a couple of old matting rugs. You can, however, if you want, get regular felt hotbed mats for this purpose.

Now, I'd like also to tell you something about the plant PIT that another neighbor of mine has fixed up on the south side of his house. The pit itself is about 6 feet in depth, the floor is on a level with the floor of the basement, and a door opens from the basement directly into the pit.

The dimensions, by the way, are about the same as for Bob Sawyer's hotbed---12 feet long, 6 feet wide, with a cover of four standard 3 by 6 foot hotbed sash. Uniform heating is supplied by a coil of heater pipe, which connected to the hot-water-heating system, and

extends all the way around the inside of the pit.

My neighbor has arranged his sashes so that they can be lifted, or moved downward, a few inches at the top, to provide ventilation. He has also built tables on which he can set seed boxes or pots containing the small plants.

Well, you might be surprised to see how much this man actually grows in his plant pit. Several times he has had lettuce and radishes when there was snow on the ground; and then early in the spring, long before anything can be planted out-of-doors, he sows seeds of tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and different kinds of flowering plants for his early flower garden. By the time the danger of frost is past, he is ready to blossom right out with almost a full-grown garden.

Another advantage of the plant pit is that plants like geraniums, which you may want to carry over the winter, can be kept in a slow-growing condition; and they'll come out the next spring in fine shape for planting. This neighbor also never fails to keep a few plants in bloom in his pit; so whenever the lady of the house wants a blossom to decorate her table, all she has to do is to visit the plant pit and select her plant.

Of course, you can hardly expect to grow winter ROSES in a pit of this kind, but you can have Primulas, Cyclamen, forced tulips, hyacinths, and narcissus.

Now, I want to tell you about still another scheme for growing Winter plants. This is one that W.R.B., my next-door-neighbor and garden advisor, has worked out for himself. First, here is the situation: On the southeast corner of his home, W. R. B. has a small inclosed porch; that is, enclosed with screen in the summer time, and with glass in the winter.

Well, a radiator connected to the hot-water-heating system, furnishes the small amount of heat required to keep the temperature of the porch from going too low---that is, not below 45 or 50 degrees. On sunshiny days the sun itself usually provides enough heat---and sometimes too much, unless there is ventilation.

Now, W.R.B. originally intended this porch to take care of house plants which had become too numerous for the dining room windows. NOW, however, he is using it to start all of his early flower and vegetable plants, at least until the weather is warm enough to put them into cold-frames.

A cold-frame, of course, is just like a hotbed, except that there is no artificial heat. The usual covering for coldframes is the regular 3- by 6- foot hotbed sash.

If you start the seeds in the house, or in the hotbed, and then transplant them to the coldframe, they grow rather slowly; and by the time the weather is warm enough for outdoor planting; they make nice sturdy plants.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: Ladies and Gentlemen, you have been listening to Neighbor Thompson, town-farmer representative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Station_____, who has just brought you the Primer for Town Farmers. He suggests that you might be interested in the following publications: "The City Home Garden," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1044; and "Fruit and Vegetable Gardens," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1242. If you are, write either to Station_____ or to the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

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In 3P
PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS

Wednesday, January 28, 1931

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 minutes

ANNOUNCEMENT: Again Station _____ presents Neighbor Thompson, town-farmer spokesman for the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Thompson is going to talk today about "Starting, and Taking Care, of the Home Fruit Garden." All right, Neighbor. ...

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I want to divide this chapter of the Primer for Town Farmers into two parts. The first part is the story of "Plums" Kelly, who by common consent is the leading back-yard fruit grower of our community.

We call him "Plums," NOT---as you might guess---because of the fine fruit of his plum trees, but because of the very worthless inedible plums, which these trees produced when Kelly first began to cultivate them.

According to his own story, our kidding about these plums --- and the nickname --- made him mad,--- and that's how he happened to turn fruit-grower in earnest.

Anyway, when Kelly moved to his present place several years ago, there wasn't much in the way of trees on it---or anything else, for that matter.

Along in February of that first year, he began to look over the nursery catalogs. His place consisted of about one-half acre, leaving him approximately three-eighths of an acre for garden.

The former owner HAD bequeathed him those two straggling plum trees, a cherry tree, a pear tree, and two apple trees; but without exception these had been sadly neglected. They were badly in need of pruning, spraying and fertilizing.

The first thing Kelly did was to move his net plum trees to a better location, to the back of the lot where he planned to start his chicken yard. The two apple trees were given a careful pruning, and a dormant spray to kill the numerous scale insects present at the time. The cherry tree---a sour cherry--- was about the only one of the lot that had much claim to respectability.

"For which the birds were thankful," Kelly remarks.

Now, that first spring, however, "Plums," as we still call him, planted 4 apple trees---all of different varieties---3 more plum trees in his poultry yard, and 2 pear trees. In between the trees he has filled the spaces with raspberries, blackberries, and so on.

Since that time he has added grape arbors, and cherry trees, and a couple of peach trees; and as I said before he has been very, very successful. From a very unpromising beginning, he has, within just a few years, built up the finest back-yard orchard in our whole community.

So I thought some of "Plums" Kelly's ideas about fruit-growing might interest you.

First, of all, he has tried a lot of different varieties and he has his favorites. His suggestions as to apple varieties are rather extensive: Grimes Golden, Stayman Winesap, old-fashioned winesap, Delicious, Yellow Transparent, Maiden Blush and Smokehouse. Of course if he had been selecting varieties to plant in some other region he would have modified this list somewhat.

He names three plums which he has tried and found good: Abundance, Green Gage, and German Prune.

He has planted two pear trees of the Sockol variety, one Kieffer and one Bartlett. Some of "Plums" neighbors who have only a very small garden area might want to plant dwarf rather than standard trees.

He was telling me something the other day about berry varieties. He relies mainly on the Ranere or St. Regis, variety of raspberry--- which frequently bears two crops a year--- but he is trying out a few plants of the Van Flett, which is especially good in the South.

The Lucretia dewberry gives fairly good results, he said. The Young dewberry is fine for the South and Pacific coast, but is apt to winter-kill in more severe climates.

Among the strawberries Kelly recommends Premier, Chesapeake, Klondyke, and 2 or 3 of the new varieties now being developed by the Department of Agriculture. Among these new varieties, he tells me the Blakemore is already being planted extensively in the South.

Well, of course, these varieties are simply suggestions. There are other good ones; and if you want detailed information, I'd suggest that you get in touch with your State College or with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Here's one idea that may interest you, if you like Grimes Golden apples. Kelly lost his Grimes Golden trees along about his second year, from the disease known as Collar rot. This disease causes the bark on the trunk of the tree near the ground to die, spreading until the tree is killed. Since then, he has put in Grimes Golden trees of what is called the "double-worked" type. That is, the trunk of the tree consists of some such variety as Delicious, with Grimes Golden worked upon it 18 to 24 inches above the ground. This supplies a trunk which is resistant to collar rot.

Well, I doubt---as does my friend Kelly---that it pays, financially, for town and village home-owners to try to produce their own supply of fruit. However, we agree that one can get a lot of satisfaction and pleasure from growing fruit in a small way in his own back-yard--- especially where as much as half an acre is available.

Under such circumstances, of course, the trees will gradually crowd out the small fruits. In fact, it won't be long until some of the trees themselves will have to be cut out. However, this is in line with good orchard practice. Many commercial orchardists find it advantageous to plant about twice as many trees as they'll finally need; and then cut out every other tree when the orchard becomes crowded. In this way, several crops of fruit can be gathered from the trees that are planted simply as fillers.

Incidentally, if you can space the apple trees far apart, peaches and pears may be planted between them.

I might add that plums do very well in the poultry yard. They not only provide shade for the poultry, but they produce plentifully.

And I might also add that cherries seem to do unusually well when planted near the house. Another reason, of course, for planting them near the house is that birds don't seem to steal the cherries so much as when they are out by themselves.

The fruit specialists say that pears, as a rule, may be planted on the poorest ground; because they will blight if the soil is too rich.

It does not seem to matter much WHERE the GRAPES are located, except that they ought to be on good soil. and as far as possible from the larger fruit trees.

In planning the home-fruit garden, of course, it is always necessary for us to keep in mind that many varieties of fruit are self-sterile. That is, they will not set fruit without cross pollination from the trees of the same kind of fruit but of different varieties. This is especially true with apples and sweet cherries, and pears. Japanese and native varieties of plums and to some degree with the European or domestic types. Most peach varieties are self fertile. Where there is a single sweet cherry tree and no other cherries growing near it, the setting of fruit is generally very poor. Even sour cherries seem to fruit more abundantly if they are cross pollinated.

However, where there is a general selection of varieties, as is usually the case in the home fruit garden, there is rarely any difficulty from lack of pollenization.

Let me say just a word, also about spraying. It seems that it has come to the point where it is impossible to grow good fruit without giving plenty of attention to protection from insects and diseases. First the trees themselves are attacked by San Jose (pronounced San Ho-sa) and other scale insects. The time to spray for these insects according to specialists, is while the trees are dormant; in fact, they say it is a good idea to apply the first spray at about this time of year, and then another just before the buds start. The recognized remedy is a spray of lime sulphur solution, or oil emulsion applied during the dormant or winter period.

Later on, of course, there are plenty of other insects and diseases which attack the foliage and the fruit.

If you want information on any phase of growing fruit, let me suggest that you write to your state college, or to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, for publications on the particular subjects you're interested in.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Ladies and Gentlemen; you have been listening to the Primer for Town Farmers, brought to you by Neighbor Thompson.

